Catalogue no. 89-656-X2016010
ISBN 978-0-660-02928-3

Aboriginal Peoples: Fact Sheets

Aboriginal peoples: Fact Sheet for Alberta

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Release date: March 14, 2016

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Aboriginal Peoples: Fact Sheet for Alberta

Nearly one in six Aboriginal people in Canada live in Alberta

- Numbering 220,695,[1] 16% of the Aboriginal identity population in Canada lived in Alberta in 2011. They made up 6% of the total population of that province.

- One in four Aboriginal people (28%) in Alberta resided in Edmonton, and one in seven (15%) resided in Calgary, although they represented only 5% and 3% of their respective total populations.

- Alberta was home to 116,670 First Nations people, 96,870 Métis, and 1,985 Inuit, with the rest reporting other[2] Aboriginal identities (3,300) or more than one Aboriginal identity (1,875). From 2006 to 2011, the First Nations population in Alberta increased by 19%, while the Métis population rose by 14%, and the Inuit population increased by 24%.[3]

- Of those who identified as First Nations people in 2011, four in five (83% or 96,730) reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada. Two-fifths (40% or 46,600) of all First Nations people (47% of First Nations people who were Treaty or Registered Indians, or 45,780 individuals) lived on a reserve.

Aboriginal population younger than non-Aboriginal

- Nearly half (49%) of Aboriginal people in Alberta were under the age of 25, compared with 32% of the non-Aboriginal population. More than half of First Nations people (53%) were in this age group (55% of those living on a reserve and 52% of the off-reserve population), as were half of Inuit and 45% of Métis.

- In 2011, the median age of First Nations people was 23.0; the off-reserve population was slightly older (23.7) than those living

About the data sources

The 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) are the main data sources for this fact sheet. The 2011 NHS collected social and economic data about the Canadian population. The 2012 APS was a national survey of First Nations people **living off reserve**, Métis, and Inuit aged 6 and older. The data are for the **Aboriginal identity population**, which refers to people who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation. It was possible to report both single and multiple responses to the Aboriginal identity questions on the NHS and the APS. The NHS data in this fact sheet are based on single responses only. The APS data represent a combination of the single and multiple Aboriginal identity populations. Nearly all off-reserve First Nations, Métis, and Inuit respondents reported a single identity.

1. Some Indian reserves and settlements did not participate in the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) as enumeration was either not permitted, it was interrupted before completion, or because of natural events (e.g., forest fires).
2. This includes people who reported having Registered Indian status and/or being members of an Indian band or First Nation without reporting an Aboriginal identity.
3. A number of factors should be taken into account when comparing data on Aboriginal people over time. Please refer to the *Aboriginal Peoples Reference Guide, National Household Survey, 2011*, Catalogue no. 99-011-X2011006 and the *Aboriginal Peoples Technical Report*, Catalogue no. 99-011-X. Incompletely enumerated reserves are not included in the 2006 and 2011 data used to determine the change in the Aboriginal population.

on a reserve (22.0). Métis had a median age of 28.2; that of Inuit was 25.0. All three groups were younger than the non-Aboriginal population, whose median age was 36.8.

Half of Aboriginal children live with both parents

- In Alberta, 44% of First Nations children aged 14 and younger lived in a family with both their parents in 2011, as did 59% of Métis children and 61% of Inuit children. The corresponding percentage for non-Aboriginal children was 80%. About a third of First Nations children and 28% of both Métis and Inuit children lived in a lone-parent family, rates that were higher than that for their non-Aboriginal peers (14%).
- In 2011, 5% of Aboriginal children aged 14 and younger were in foster care; at 9%, the percentage was highest for First Nations children living off reserve. Moreover, of all Alberta children in foster care in 2011, almost three-quarters (73%) were Aboriginal children, the majority of whom (79%) were First Nations children.

Table 1
Percentage distribution of children aged 14 and under by living arrangement, by selected Aboriginal identity group and area of residence, Alberta, 2011

	Total Aboriginal identity population	First Nations single identity			Métis single identity	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population
		Total	On reserve	Off reserve			
	percent						
Children of both parents[1]	50.3	44.3	44.0	44.5	58.8	61.0	80.1
Stepchildren	8.6	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.4	7.0	5.4
Children of lone parent	32.0	34.8	36.7	33.5	28.0	28.0	13.7
Grandchildren in skip-generation family	3.1	4.0	5.4	2.9	1.8	0.0	0.3
Foster children	4.6	6.2	2.0	9.2	2.4	0.0	0.2
Children living with other relatives[2]	1.3	1.8	2.9	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.2

1. Includes children in a two-parent family where there may also be stepsiblings or half-siblings present. Also includes children in a two-parent family for whom it cannot be determined if they are stepchildren.
2. Non-relatives may be present. Excludes foster children.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

On-reserve First Nations people most likely to live in crowded homes and homes requiring major repairs

- In 2011, 35% of on-reserve and 8% of off-reserve First Nations people in Alberta lived in crowded homes, that is, with more than one person per room. Among Métis, the percentage was 3%, and among Inuit, 5%. The comparable figure for the non-Aboriginal population was 4%.
- Nearly one-third of First Nations people (30%), 12% of Métis and 8% of Inuit lived in homes in need of major repairs; the rate was highest for First Nations people living on a reserve (54%).

Table 2
Percentages living in crowded homes and homes in need of major repairs, by selected Aboriginal identity group and area of residence, Alberta, 2011

	Total Aboriginal identity population	First Nations single identity			Métis single identity	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population
		Total	On reserve	Off reserve			
	percent						
Crowding[1]	11.5	18.7	35.0	7.8	3.4	4.8	3.5
Home in need of major[2] repairs	21.2	29.8	53.6	14.0	11.7	8.3	6.1

1. More than one person per room.
2. For example, dwellings with defective plumbing or electrical wiring and dwellings needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings.
Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Ability to speak an Aboriginal language highest among on-reserve First Nations people

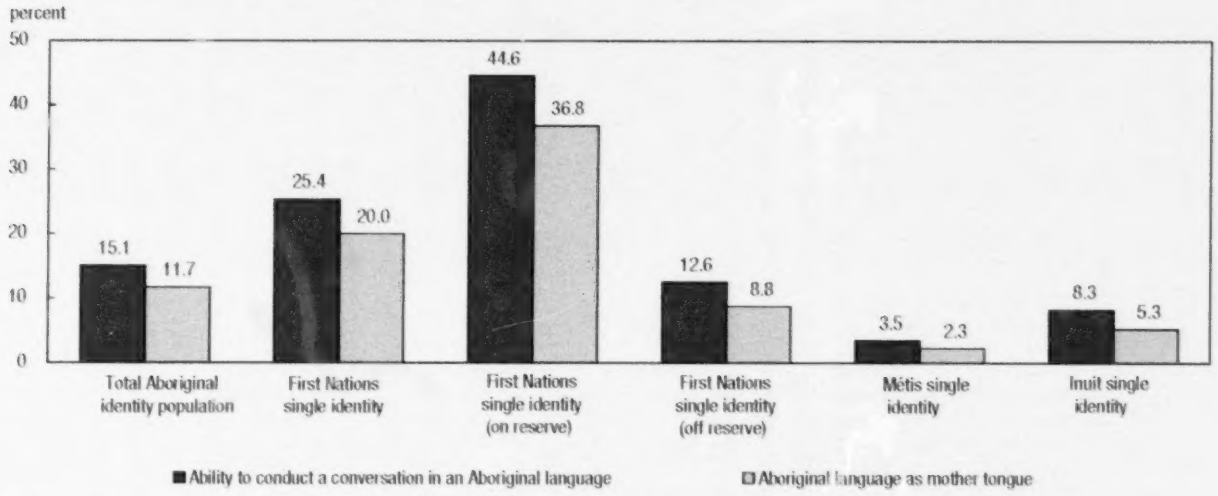
- In Alberta, 45% of First Nations people living on a reserve reported the ability to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language, a rate higher than among off-reserve First Nations people (13%), Métis (4%) and Inuit (8%). The Aboriginal languages most commonly spoken by First Nations people were Cree languages, Blackfoot, and Stoney. Métis spoke mostly Cree languages, Michif, and Dene. Inuktitut was the Aboriginal language most commonly spoken by Inuit.

- The number who reported being able to converse in an Aboriginal language exceeded the number who reported an Aboriginal mother tongue, which suggests acquisition of an Aboriginal language as a second language.

- Based on results of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey,[4] 65% of off-reserve First Nations people, 37% of Métis and 61% of Inuit aged 6 and older reported that speaking and understanding an Aboriginal language was important to them.

Chart 1

Ability to converse in an Aboriginal language and Aboriginal language as mother tongue, by selected Aboriginal identity group and area of residence, Alberta, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Nearly half have postsecondary qualifications

- In 2011, 47% of Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 in Alberta had a certificate, diploma or degree from a trade school, college or university: 40% of First Nations people, 53% of Métis and 52% of Inuit. The comparable percentage for their non-Aboriginal counterparts was 65%.

- Among those with postsecondary credentials, First Nations people, Métis and Inuit were more likely than non-Aboriginal graduates to have completed programs below the bachelor's level (trades or college programs).

- There was also a difference in the proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with "no certificate, diploma or degree". In 2011, 39% of First Nations people aged 25 to 64, 23% of Métis and 24% of Inuit did not have a certificate, diploma or degree. The corresponding percentage for the non-Aboriginal population was 11%.

4. The target population of the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) excluded people living on Indian reserves and in Indian settlements in the provinces and in selected First Nations communities in the territories.

Table 3
Highest level of educational attainment of population aged 25 to 64, by selected Aboriginal identity group and area of residence, Alberta, 2011

	Total Aboriginal identity population	First Nations single identity			Métis single identity	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population
		Total	On reserve	Off reserve			
	percent						
No certificate, diploma or degree	30.4	38.5	54.3	28.9	22.6	23.9	11.3
High school diploma or equivalent	23.0	21.3	15.7	24.7	24.5	24.5	23.9
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	46.6	40.2	30.0	46.5	52.9	52.2	64.8
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	14.4	12.2	10.1	13.5	16.7	18.5	12.1
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	20.6	18.0	13.9	20.4	23.3	20.7	21.4
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level[1]	3.1	3.3	2.6	3.8	3.1	2.2	4.8
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	8.5	6.8	3.5	8.8	9.9	10.3	26.5

1. Comparisons with other data sources suggest that the category "University certificate or diploma below bachelor level" was overreported in the National Household Survey (NHS). The results for this category should be interpreted with caution. For more information on concepts and data quality, refer to the NHS reference guides and *Education Reference Guide* on the Statistics Canada website.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Employment rates and median total income increase with education

- In 2011, the employment rates of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit aged 25 to 64 in Alberta who did not have a certificate, diploma or degree were 40.5%, 56.9% and 68.2% respectively. Employment rates were higher for those with further education. For example, among those with postsecondary credentials, the employment rate of First Nations people was 71.4%, while that of Métis was 80.5% and that of Inuit, 84.4%.

Table 4
Employment rate of population aged 25 to 64, by highest level of educational attainment, selected Aboriginal identity group and area of residence, Alberta, 2011

	Total Aboriginal identity population	First Nations single identity			Métis single identity	Inuit single identity	Non-Aboriginal identity population
		Total	On reserve	Off reserve			
	employment rate (percent)						
Total	**66.3**	**58.1**	**43.5**	**67.0**	**74.0**	**81.0**	**81.2**
No certificate, diploma or degree	46.7	40.5	30.9	51.5	56.9	68.2	70.4
High school diploma or equivalent	70.9	64.7	51.3	69.9	75.6	82.2	78.2
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	76.7	71.4	62.0	75.2	80.5	84.4	84.2

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

- Median total income[5] was also higher for those with higher education levels. Among First Nations people aged 25 to 64, median total income (rounded to the nearest $1,000) ranged from $15,000 for those with no certificate, diploma or degree to $34,000 for those with postsecondary credentials. The range for Métis was from $22,000 to $47,000, and for Inuit, from $20,000 to $47,000.

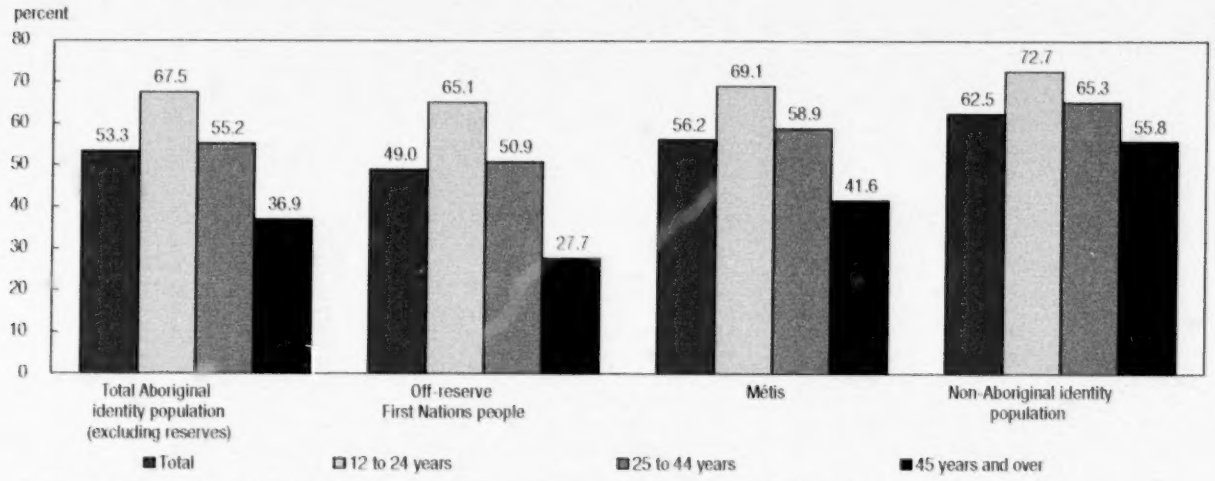
Half rate their health as excellent or very good

- Based on results of the Aboriginal Peoples Survey, half (53%) of the Aboriginal population aged 12 and older in Alberta rated their health as excellent or very good in 2012: 49% of First Nations people living off reserve, 56% of Métis, and 56% of Inuit.

- The majority of off-reserve First Nations people (59%), Métis (64%) and Inuit (64%) aged 18 and older reported excellent or very good mental health.[6]

5. Total income includes income from all sources, including employment income, income from government programs, pension income, investment income and any other money income. The calculation includes population with income and without income (with an income of zero).
6. Questions on self-rated mental health were only asked of respondents who were providing answers to the survey directly, on their own behalf (i.e., data are not available when questionnaires were completed by proxy interview).

Chart 2
Excellent or very good self-rated overall health of population aged 12 and over, by selected Aboriginal identity group[1] and age group, Alberta, 2012



1. Data for Inuit are included in the total Aboriginal identity population but are not shown separately because of the small number of Inuit living in the province.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012; and Canadian Community Health Survey, 2012.

- Just under two-thirds of Inuit (65%) and off-reserve First Nations people (62%) as well as 56% of Métis aged 12 and older reported that they had been diagnosed with at least one chronic condition. The corresponding percentage for the non-Aboriginal population[7] was 53%.

- Among off-reserve First Nations people and Métis,[8] commonly reported conditions included arthritis excluding fibromyalgia (both 15%), asthma (14% and 17%) and high blood pressure (12% and 13%). In addition, 15% of off-reserve First Nations people and 12% of Métis reported being diagnosed with a mood disorder, and 15% of off-reserve First Nations people and 14% of Métis reported an anxiety disorder.

Table 5
Excellent or very good self-rated mental health of population aged 18 and over, by selected Aboriginal identity group[1] and age group, Alberta, 2012

	Total Aboriginal identity population (excluding reserves)	Off-reserve First Nations people	Métis	Non-Aboriginal identity population
	percent			
Total	**62.2**	**59.1**	**64.2**	**71.2**
18 to 24	59.0	56.3	61.8	75.3
25 to 44	62.3	58.6	65.0	70.7
45 and over	63.7	61.3	64.4	70.6

1. Data for Inuit are included in the total Aboriginal identity population but are not shown separately because of the small number of Inuit living in the province.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012; and Canadian Community Health Survey, 2012.

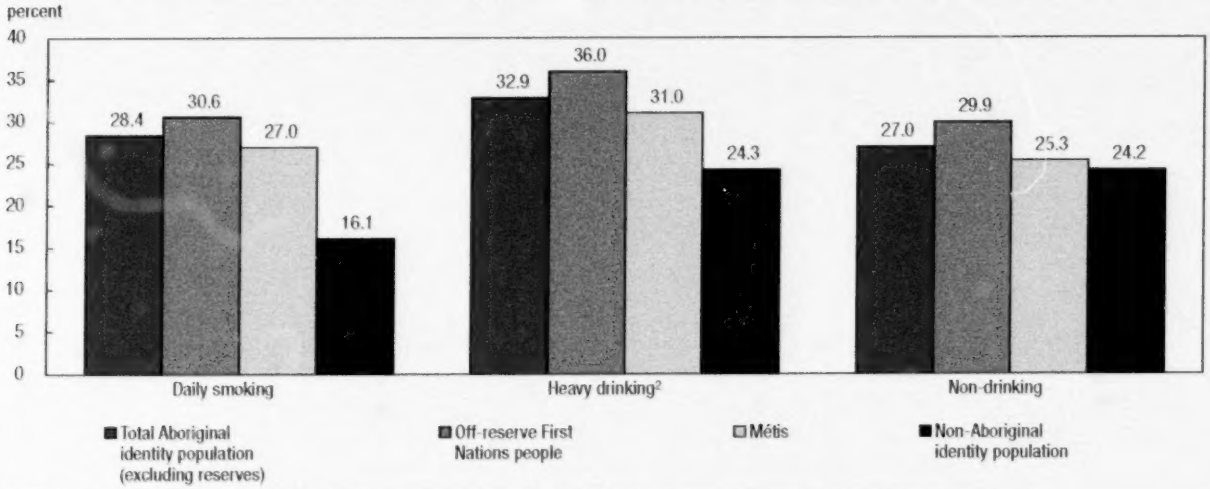
Off-reserve First Nations people and Métis more likely to smoke daily

- In 2012, 31% of off-reserve First Nations people aged 12 and older in Alberta reported that they smoked daily, as did 27% of Métis. The comparable percentage for the non-Aboriginal population was 16%.

7. Health data for the non-Aboriginal population were drawn from the 2012 Canadian Community Health Survey.
8. Some characteristics for Inuit are not included because of the small number of Inuit living in the province.

Chart 3

Selected health behaviours of population aged 12 and over, by selected Aboriginal identity group,[1] Alberta, 2012



1. Data for Inuit are included in the total Aboriginal identity population but are not shown separately because of the small number of Inuit living in the province.
2. Heavy drinking refers to the consumption of five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the 12 months preceding the survey.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012; and Canadian Community Health Survey, 2012.

- For those 12 and older, the rate of heavy drinking (five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the 12 months preceding the survey) was 36% for off-reserve First Nations people and 31% for Métis, compared with 24% for non-Aboriginal people. Almost half of First Nations people (47%), 40% of Métis and 38% of non-Aboriginal people aged 12 to 24 reported heavy drinking.

- At the same time, 30% of off-reserve First Nations people were non-drinkers (consumed no alcohol in the 12 months preceding the survey), compared with 24% of the non-Aboriginal population. The percentage for Métis was 25%. At ages 12 to 24, 41% of First Nations people were non-drinkers. In comparison, just over one-third of their non-Aboriginal peers (36%) and Métis (34%) peers had not consumed alcohol in the 12 months before the survey.

Table 6

Selected health behaviours of population aged 12 and over, by selected Aboriginal identity group[1] and age group, Alberta, 2012

	Total Aboriginal identity population (excluding reserves)	Off-reserve First Nations people	Métis	Non-Aboriginal identity population
	percent			
12 to 24				
Daily smoking	18.3	21.7	16.6	10.1[†]
Heavy drinking[2]	42.3	46.6	40.1	38.3
Non-drinking	36.9	41.4	34.4	35.8
25 to 44				
Daily smoking	35.2	33.6	36.4	19.6
Heavy drinking	34.1	39.5	30.3	28.9
Non-drinking	15.5	18.5	13.2	18.0
45 and over				
Daily smoking	30.6	36.7	27.3	15.8
Heavy drinking	22.8	18.8[†]	24.3	15.1
Non-drinking	30.7	33.8	28.8	24.3

† use with caution

1. Data for Inuit are included in the total Aboriginal identity population but are not shown separately because of the small number of Inuit living in the province.
2. Heavy drinking refers to the consumption of five or more drinks on one occasion at least once a month in the 12 months preceding the survey.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2012; and Canadian Community Health Survey, 2012.